



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
CMC-RA

31 DEC 2004

WHITE LETTER NO. 11-04

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers:
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MARINE FOR LIFE - INJURED SUPPORT PROGRAM

1. The Marine Corps has a long history of caring for its fallen and injured Marines. As we all know, many Marines have recently suffered extremely serious combat injuries. Many of these Marines would not have survived in previous wars. However, because of our magnificent medical care and our ability to get our wounded treated so quickly, they are fortunately still with us. Nevertheless, their trauma still has a potentially devastating impact on them, their families and their future.

2. Although there has always been great concern for our wounded, there has been no formal program within the Marine Corps to address their special needs, and we have often relied upon other federal agencies to care for them after they have left the Corps. After talking with many of these Marines, their families, doctors, and commanders and in conjunction with extensive research by HQMC, I have established the Marine For Life - Injured Support (M4L-IS) program. This program will be our direct link to these injured Marines and their families. The Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (DC M&RA) is the lead for M4L-IS. Implementation is already underway. M4L-IS will address all aspects of care for the Marine and family to include the very best medical care, travel and lodging for family members, coordination with external support agencies, retention in the Marine Corps if desired, transition support to Department of Veterans Affairs care, priority employment in the civil sector, continued monitoring after separation, and other forms of assistance as required.

3. To support this program with the urgency I believe is required, I have directed that we fully fund and man the M4L-IS program. I expect all HQMC staffs and field commanders to ensure their Marines are aware of this initiative to take care of our own. Quite simply, it is the right thing to do. Once a Marine always a Marine.

4. Keep attacking and Semper Fidelis.


M. W. Hagee